



Kadimah-led Services

Saturday, December 4, 10 am

You won't want to miss is a terrific opportunity to daven with the children of our community. From the youngest members of our religious school to those b'nei mitzvah veterans our students will be sharing their torah with us at is special twice a year event. You will be energized and inspired. Please come and support our kids.

Chanukah O Chanukah: A Family Celebration

Friday, December 10, 6 pm

Come light the menorah! Let's have a party! Dreidel games, art activities, latkes, storytelling, candle lighting and singing with the whole CSZ community at Friday night services. Potluck dinner begins at 6:00. Please bring your favorite latkes or some other vegetarian dish to share. Appropriate for families with children of all ages.

Looking for a Weekend Getaway? Register Now for the CSZ Retreat!

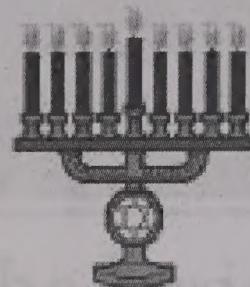
If someone offered you a weekend of relaxation in the country with good friends and interesting new people, where all of your meals are prepared for you and you can swim, play, study, do art and sing, wouldn't you say yes? Say yes to the CSZ Community Retreat this year, and be a part of an extraordinary experience of Shabbat and community. This year's retreat is at Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma, May 13 - 15. **Early registration is required by January 7.** RSVP by contacting Sue at 415/861-6932 x302 or educator@shaarzahav.org and sending in a \$50 deposit to hold your place.

Chanukah 2004: Not Your Grandma's Latkes!

Saturday, December 11, 7:30 pm

Leave the kids at home (they have their own Chanukah event on Friday evening) – it's time for the grown ups to party! Fancy food and semi-sophisticated fun are in store at Not Your Grandma's Latkes, a Chanukah party in true CSZ style. Participate in gourmet latke-making, featuring the talents of renowned San Francisco caterer Eric Sorenson. Assorted

art and music activities will round out the fun. A donation of \$10 per person is requested.



Music in the Mishkan Returns for a Sixth Season!

CSZ member Randy Weiss and his wonderful musician colleagues will present three Sunday afternoon concerts at CSZ for the sixth season of Music in the Mishkan, beginning in February, 2005. Mark these dates on your calendar:

February 20: The Bridge Trio (**Randy Weiss, violin, Natasha Vershilova, viola, and Vicky Ehrlich, cello**) will perform works for string trio by Beethoven, Dohnanyi and Hans Krass.

March 13: Acclaimed pianist **Marilyn Thompson** joins the **Bridge Trio** in

piano quartets by Mozart, Brahms and **Gideon Klein**.

May 8: **Carey Bell**, principal clarinetist of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, will join **Randy Weiss** and colleagues in two masterpieces for clarinet and string quartet by Mozart and Brahms.

All concerts are Sunday afternoons at 4 pm, followed by a wine and cheese reception. Brochures and ticket order forms will be sent out in early January. Don't miss these beautiful concerts in our wonderful Mishkan!

Calling All Volunteers: Rainbow Fund 5765 Needs You

The Rainbow Fund, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's annual appeal, launches at CSZ's Chanukah party, December 7. Between December and February, every member of our congregation, as well as many family members and friends, will receive letters, calls and personal visits soliciting their support. The Rainbow Fund provides critically needed funds to support the programs and operations of CSZ.

Working on last year's successful campaign, many CSZ members had opportu-

nities to meet community members they'd not known before, and to deepen existing relationships. Afraid to ask for a financial gift? It's easier than you might think.

We need your help to insure that this year's campaign is successful. We need congregants for big jobs and small. Volunteers are especially needed for Rainbow Fund phonathons on Sundays January 23 and February 6. Please contact Marianne Balin 510/339-9468 or mbalin@aol.com to volunteer.

A Gift to Our Friends, Phyllis and George Mintzer

On Saturday, October 23, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav honored our long-time friends, members and teachers George and Phyllis Mintzer. Our sanctuary was filled by the Mintzers' friends, family and students during a special Shabbat morning service lead by Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, Rabbi Yoel

Kahn and Rabbi Eric Weiss. The congregation presented the Mintzers with a fountain for their garden; the fountain was made of tiles designed by community members and was conceived and put together by Debbie Levy, Rena Frantz and Barbara Cymrot, with help from Beth Sousa.



The Jewish Gaily Forward

December 2004
Volume 28, Issue 4

The *Jewish Gaily Forward* is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email: office@shaarzahav.org. Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

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Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

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Classified ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each additional 10 words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, marked: Attention Forward Advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives. Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

President's Column

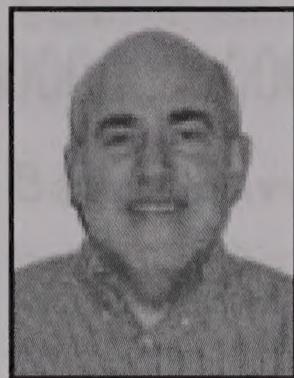
Election Aftermath

By Arthur Slepian

On November 3, as the results of the election began to sink in, I felt a great sense of sorrow. However, I also felt more grateful than ever that this congregation is a place I can call home. And I felt very proud of the remarkable energy and commitment that so many of our members brought to the political process this year. CSZ members participated in voter registration efforts, (including several who worked out of state), opened their checkbooks to provide financial support to candidates and causes, worked telephone banks, and provided legal and other assistance to help ensure that our democratic process worked fairly.

But how do we deal with the results of the election? In the color-coded language of our national media, CSZ is an overwhelmingly "blue" community in the heart of the bluest city in the country. What are we to make of all that "red" out there? We are told that "moral and family values" played a big role in this election, yet the values talked about seem so different from the ones we cherish here at Sha'ar Zahav. And eleven states made an explicit choice about gay marriage, all in support of initiatives that define and limit marriage as a union of a man and a woman. I doubt that any religious community in the country has as many same-sex couples who were married in 2004 as we do here (including of course our beloved rabbi and her partner), which puts us close to the epicenter of that issue. So in some unusually personal way, it seemed that this election was partly about us. And to the extent that it was about us, many of us felt a sense of estrangement from a country that seemed determined to tell us that the rights of marriage do not belong to us.

What do we do in the face of this? Here are a few observations: To begin with, it seems to me that the results of the gay marriage initiatives were totally predictable, especially in places like Georgia, Arkansas and North Dakota. What is really more remarkable is that more than 40% of the voters in Oregon and Michigan voted against the initiatives. Almost 40% of Ohio voters were against. Even in Georgia, 25% of the voters did not support the initiative. We need to remember how quickly the terms of the debate on gay rights have shifted. We have moved in a short time from a focus on whether what we do in the bedroom could be con-



sidered a "crime," and whether we should be allowed to be teachers, on to discussions of whether we should be allowed to marry. I attended my first gay pride parades in the late 1970s, when the focus was on Anita Bryant and the Briggs Initiative. CSZ was just getting started and there was little visibility of gays and lesbians in the Jewish world. Think of how much progress there has been in less than three decades, and what a short span of time that represents in both Jewish history and U.S. history. And, despite some initial commentary that Gavin Newsom was somehow responsible for President Bush's reelection, it seems clear that this first post 9/11 election was primarily decided by voter perceptions on matters of safety, security and leadership.

We may feel sad, angry and disappointed by the results, but this is not a time for despair. One of the more important things we can do is to work to ensure that our home here at CSZ continues to grow and flourish, spiritually, educationally and financially. We will have a variety of challenges to face in the coming months, and it is clearer than ever that we must meet them with a renewed sense of commitment and dedication. When the world sends us a message that we are "strangers," it is important to know that there is a place where that is not so. This congregation provides us with a foundation, a community from which we can draw the strength and the wisdom to continue our work for a better world, a world repaired. Let us cherish and honor it in all that we do.

*Arthur Slepian,
President, cszpres@pacbell.net*

Project Open Hand for the Holidays: Another Year

It is so wonderful to be able to report that on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we are again joining forces with JFCS to fill all of the usual volunteer spots for Project Open Hand. Project Open Hand prepares and delivers hot meals and groceries to clients with HIV disease and other illnesses that make it difficult for the recipient to cook for themselves. The clients receive fresh or frozen meals for every day of the year.

Our assistance allows Project Open Hand to prepare and deliver meals even though the regular volunteers are out of town or spending Christmas with their families. There will be shifts for morning people (food prep), afternoon people (food packaging) and those that like to deliver.

So look for the registration flyer and fill it out. The deadline is December 3rd!

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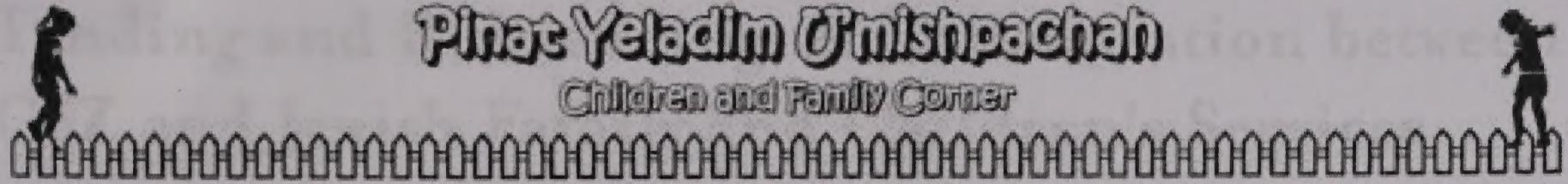
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Children and Family Corner



Tot Shabbat

Saturday, December 4, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Come celebrate Shabbat with your tot. Bring your 2- to 5-year-olds for singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and Jewish family fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist. Younger siblings and nonmembers are welcome.

Baby Chavurah

Sunday, December 12, 10 - noon

Bring those under-twos out to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, playtime and socializing. This month we meet at the synagogue. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish. Older siblings are welcome as are nonmembers. Baby Chavurah meets the second Sunday of each month.

Family Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, December 17, 6:30 pm

Meet, eat, sing and celebrate Shabbat with CSZ families and then stay for Friday night services. Families with children of all ages are encouraged to come. Dinner is vegetarian potluck; please bring a dish to share. No RSVP required. Be a part of the *ruach* (spirit) of our community and invite friends and family to join you. Shabbat Shalom!

NO Kadimah December 22, 25, 29 or January 1 – Winter Break

Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of Family and Children's Education, (415/861-6932 x302 or educator@shaarzahav.org) for more information about any of these programs or to RSVP.

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Then join the Newsletter Committee. We are always looking for people with writing or editing skills who want to know everything that's going on in the synagogue.

For more information, contact
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Tending and Befriending: A Collaboration between CSZ and Jewish Family and Children's Services

As the new counselor on staff at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Randy Weled is here to support our members in a variety of contexts. Join him for some of these important discussions and workshops. For more information or to RSVP, contact Randy (randy@shaarzahav.org or 415/861-6932 x311).

CSZ Commemoration of World AIDS Day

Thursday, December 2, 7 pm

This group will give people a chance to talk about how HIV has affected our individual lives. We will also take time to honor the memory of our loved ones who have died and whose spirits continue to dwell among us. Please bring a candle.

Recovering from Addictions within a Jewish Context

Thursdays, 7 – 8:45 pm,
December 16 – February 10 (no meeting on 12/30)

We will deal with issues of addiction, including Jewish thoughts on recovery. This group will be open to those with chemical addictions as well as those with issues around sex, money, overeating, video games, or any behavior that causes our lives to be unmanageable. Having a community with which to deal with these issues can often break the isolation that keeps the addiction in place. Those interested in participating will meet with Randy for one hour to assess whether this group would be appropriate for them. The anonymity of all those who participate will be protected.

The Holiday Blues

Monday, December 20, 7- 8:30 pm and
Wednesday, January 5, 8:15-9:45 pm

There is great pressure for the holidays to be a time of joy and happiness. However, for many of us it is the opposite. Memories of unhappy times surface, and the pressure leads us to feel that it is inappropriate to express feelings of sadness, anger and disappointment at this time of year. In short we find it difficult to be ourselves. This often is exasperated by the time change and the lack of sunlight (literally and figuratively) in our lives. Please join us to discuss these issues and feelings.

Forgiveness: Keeping the Spirit of Yom Kippur Alive

Sunday, January 9, 7 pm

With the secular New Year having just begun, our spirit of resolve makes this a ripe time for thinking about forgiveness. This group will be a follow-up to the session that Randy and Rabbi Angel facilitated on Yom Kippur.

Other Possible Groups:

- Focus on men's issues: spirituality, sexuality, being in relationship and/or being single.
- An exploration of multiracial concerns at CSZ with the goal of opening a dialogue and providing education and tools to deal with conflict between individuals and/or groups.

Current available times for groups will be Wednesdays from either 4:30 – 6:00 pm or 8:15 – 9:45 pm and Mondays or Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Ideas for other potential groups are welcome. Randy can begin a group on any topic of interest and benefit to the CSZ community. Please contact Randy if you have suggestions.

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Adult Education in December

The Trial of God, A Play by Eli Weisel

Two sessions, Wednesdays, December 1 and 15, 7 pm

While interred in Auschwitz, Eli Weisel witnessed a trial in which God was the defendant. God was tried for violating the covenant by turning away from the Jewish people in their greatest hour of need. Join Rabbi Angel as we read and discuss this stunning work, which is part of the long Jewish tradition of arguing with God. \$18 CSZ members; \$36 non-members. For more information contact 415-861-6932 or programs@shaarzahav.org. Co-sponsored by Lehrhaus.

Ecclesiastes, with Howard Steiermann

Monday, December 6, 7 pm

Who's a *Kohelet*? What's an Ecclesiastes? Learn the lessons of this classic Jewish text, thereby learning about ourselves and how we might get more out of our busy lives. Let's discuss life! \$10 CSZ members; \$18 non-members. To register or for more information contact 415-861-6932 or programs@shaarzahav.org.

Downtown Talmud for Busy People

Friday, December 17, noon-1 pm

If you have always wanted to explore the Talmud but thought you didn't have time in your hectic schedule, then these sessions might be just the thing, as Rabbi Camille Shira Angel brings the learning to your downtown work environment! Bring a friend or colleague -- and your lunch -- and join Rabbi Angel as we look to Jewish texts to explore ethical questions relating to current affairs. Flood Building, 870 Market Street at Powell, Room 838. Free.

Havdalah Discussion and Potluck

Saturday December 18, 7 pm

Join us for a series of informal, once a month Saturday discussion get-togethers. We'll meet to talk about various topics and end with a beautiful Havdalah service and a veggie potluck. Our December discussion will be on "being single and/or childless in Jewish culture." Come, talk, eat and, in community, mark the end of Shabbat. A great opportunity for both Jewish learning and schmoozing.

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And check out these classes at the Jewish Community Center, co-sponsored by CSZ:

Israel Update

Wednesday, December 1, 7- 8:30 pm

Keep up with the news and learn the historical context of current events. Dr. Shlomi Ravid, Director of the Israel Center, Rabbi Douglas Kahn, Executive Director of the JCRC, and other knowledgeable speakers will discuss the news from Israel, providing insight and analysis that goes behind the headlines. \$5 per session. At the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street at Presidio Avenue in San Francisco. For more information, please contact the JCC's Taube Center for Jewish Life at 415-292-1209 or visit http://www.jccsf.org/dc_jewish_life.htm.

Bringing Light to Dark Times

Monday, December 13, 8- 9:30 pm

The Chanukah candles bring their light to our world during the shortest days of the year. How can we, in our own lives, bring illumination to our own lives and our world? Explore what having a spiritual practice is and how we can cultivate our own. Members \$5, Public \$7. [CSZ members receive the JCC membership rate.] At the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street at Presidio Avenue in San Francisco. To register or receive more information, please contact the JCC's Taube Center for Jewish Life at 415-292-1209 or visit http://www.jccsf.org/dc_jewish_life.htm

World AIDS Day

Wednesday, December 1, 11:30 am.

Rabbi Angel will be one of the key speakers at the 11th Annual World AIDS Day observance, which will also include an awards ceremony and musical performances. The event will be held at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park (at the intersection of Bowling Green and Middle Drive East). Free and open to the public. RSVP requested by Tuesday, November 30, at 415-750-8340. For directions visit www.aidsmemorial.org.

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Artist-in-Residence Weekend with Shimon Attie

January 28-30

Internationally-known installation artist and photographer Shimon Attie uses contemporary media to create on-site art installations in public places, which give visual form to Jewish memory and history, as well as to that of other marginalized communities. Many of his earlier European works dealt with the history of World War II, while his American projects have focused more on the multi-cultural memories and the multiplicity of voices which inhabit the same urban spaces. During Shimon's Artist-in-Residency, he will present his earlier European and American projects, as well as his upcoming work planned for Oslo, Norway, which will be based on the Oslo Peace Accords that nearly changed our world just ten years ago. The weekend will include video showings, discussions and workshops. The full schedule and other details will be published next month. Please mark your calendar for this important and engaging weekend.



Female to Male International

FTMI is the largest, longest-running educational organization serving FTM Transgender and Transsexual men. We are an entirely volunteer run organization which publishes a quarterly newsletter, organizes events, and facilitates monthly peer led support groups. Call or email for details. gender confirmation is possible!

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Jewish Community Information and Referral is a service of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, and the Peninsula
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High Holiday Pledge 5765

(partial list)

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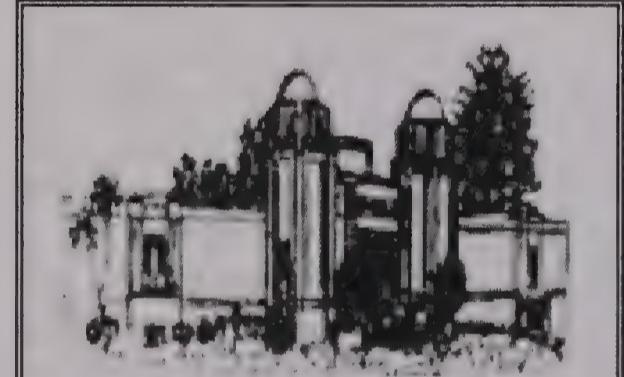
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New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Barbara Braasch

Rose-Anne Donner Colt

**Jessica Alexandra and Tony Villaluna,
Maxima and Oona**

Ophir Klein

**Patty Caplan and Jonathon Simonoff,
Emma**

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Naches

**Lisa Inman and
Alisa Gilden** on the occasion of their wedding.



Shira Zingman-Daniels on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Chris Black and Harold Zatz on their moving in together.

Oneg, Flower and Childcare Sponsorships

October 8/9

Bimah Flowers were sponsored by

Ilana Drummond and

Sharon Dulberg in honor of Lisa Inman and Alisa Gilden's aufruf and wedding.



Friday Night Oneg was sponsored by **Lisa Inman and Alisa Gilden** in honor of their aufruf and wedding.

Simchat Torah Oneg was sponsored by **Gerry Rosenstein**.

15/16

Bimah Flowers and Friday Oneg were sponsored by **Avi Goldberg and Will Garcia** in honor of Shai Garcia-Goldberg's first birthday.

Saturday Oneg was sponsored the **Zingman-Daniels Family** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Shira Zingman-Daniels.

22/23 Shabbat Mintzer

Bimah Flowers were sponsored by

Manny Fishman, Leslie Kane and Shmulik Fishman in honor of George and Phyllis Mintzer.

Friday Night Childcare was sponsored by

Jeff Friedman in honor of George and Phyllis Mintzer and their unconditional love.

Shabbat Mintzer Oneg was sponsored by the following:

Anonymous

Marianne Balin and Prudence Carter

Dan Bellm and Yoel Kahn and Adam David Bellm Kahn

Allan Berenstein

The Families of Chalmers/Hirschkop/Koch/Frank

Manny Fishman and Leslie Kane

Mark Gershman

Tony Harris

Alex Ingersoll

Batyia Kalis

Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath

Rose Katz

Ron Lezell

Anna Lichtenberg

Laura Lowe

Mark Mackler and Wendell Choo

Eve Meyer

Alan Michels and Laureen Kim

Phyllis and George Mintzer

Lisa Ochs and Lea Salem

Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado

Marc Wernick

29/30

Bimah Flowers were sponsored in honor of the service leaders.

Oneg was sponsored by **Michael**

Bettinger and Bob Goldstein in honor of the 17th anniversary of their Kiddushin.

Birthdays

1 Rachael Reiley

1 Maxima Alexandra

2 Paul Fishman

2 Rose Katz

3 Sophie Macks

4 Kelley Clements

5 Reuben Zellman

6 Dan Alpert

7 Rachel Warsaw

9 Chaya Rivka Mayerson



9

Lisa Windesheim-Zigas

9

Sara Felder Noily

9

Lisa Inman

10

Debbie Levy

10

Cindy Icke

11

Joel Springer

11

Ro'e Zaid

12

Walter Leiss

12

William Goldstein

13

Annie Downs

14

Aaron Goldman-MacLachlan

14

Isabel Lahn-Schroeder

15

Phil Charney

15

Ron Lezell

15

Nina Raff

17

Ina Turpen Fried

17

Howard Goldin

18

Leslie Kane

19

A. David Shaber

20

Michele Williamson

21

Emma Simonoff

22

Ellen Murland

22

Jesse Felder Noily

23

Jeffrey Piade

23

Evan Kuluk

24

Andrew Parker-Rose

24

Yonah Levy

26

Jose Luis Moscovich

26

Anne Bluethenthal

26

Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe

26

Scott Wenders

28

Allison Schaffer

29

Reuben Winters Raff

29

Barry Schmell

29

Bernard Choden

30

Jazmine Best

31

Sam Thal

31

Greer Hauptman

31

Gerry Llamado

Yahrzeits

4

Marilyn O'Keeffe

9

Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu

18

David Glassberg

20

Norman David Kramer

21

Walter Palmer

29

Allan Craig



Game Day

Saturday, December 25, after services throughout the afternoon

Join us for an informal day of hanging out with friends. Match wits at chess, go for that triple word score in Scrabble, have a nosh, watch a video. Bring some snacks to share and your favorite games to play, drop in anytime throughout the afternoon. All ages welcome.

Classifieds

PSYCHOTHERAPY:

A safe place to talk about life transition, relationship turmoil, emotional upheaval, existential crises... or simple, everyday concerns. Jody Reiss, LCSW (#15289). 415/401-9482

HEBREW/TORAH TROPE INSTRUCTION:

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ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:

Internet making you crazy? Mysterious freezes? Troubleshooter for hire! Improve Performance. Software Support/Tutoring/& More. References. Roslyn 510/526-1209.

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Synagogue Information

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Phyllis Mintzer

Rabbi's Assistant

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Officers

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First Vice President, Ora Prochovnick
Vice President, Rose Katz
Vice President, Alex Ingersoll
Treasurer, Karen Schiller
Recorder, Alan Foss

Va'ad Members

Lisa Katz (ex officio)
Marianne Balin
Geoff Benjamin
Barbara Cymrot
Ron Edelman
Tony Harris
Leslie Kane
Marc Lipschutz
Judy Schwartz
Marc Wernick

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews

Committee Chairs

Baby Chavurah, by committee

Bequests and Donations, open

Bikkur Cholim, open

Book Group, Mark Mackler

Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa

Bylaws, Howard Steiermann

Children's Education Board,
Howard Herman

Cemetery, David Stein

Dues, Tiela Chalmers

East Bay Chavurah, Ida Kuluk and
Larry Wexler

Endowment Fund, David Stein

Experiment in Congregational Education,
Dan Bellm

Finance, Karen Schiller

Fine Arts, Barbara Cymrot

Fund Development, Marianne Balin and
Tony Harris

Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Israel Committee, Miki Goralsky and
Steve Mazer

Keshership, Kelly Cytron and
Geoff Benjamin

Leadership Development,
Diana Buchbinder

Library, Bernard Schertzer

Long-Range Planning, Claudia Bernard
and Geoff Benjamin

Newsletter, Prudence Carter
• pruc@sbcglobal.net

Outreach, Prudence Carter

Past Presidents' Council, David Gellman

Personnel, Alex Ingersoll

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Steve Mazer • programs@shaarzahav.org

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Robert Bernardo

Rabbi Liaison, Ora Prochovnick

Ritual, Steve Weitz

Social Action, Susan Lubeck and
Sara Haber

UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin

UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman,
Karen Schiller and James Carlson

Web and I.T., Drew Parker-Rose

